

## Hola School



*Students at Hola School in 1913. Back Row: Rosa Christopherson, Teacher; Gusti Johnson, Joe, Herb, Johnny and Helga Christopherson, Peter Sigvaldason, Otto and Leo Bjornson. Front Row: Soley Skardal, Veiga Christopherson, Alia Jonason, Rurik Bjornson, Bardarson. Left, Bjossi Johnson is holding Frank Skardal; Otto Skardal is behind him. Jenny Christopherson is standing in doorway.*

Nestled among the oak-studded hills four miles north from Baldur and a quarter of a mile east, is the one-room schoolhouse named "Hola" - an Icelandic word meaning "hills". The Hola School District No. 889 was formed in the year 1897. The schoolhouse and four-team stable were built in the spring of that year on land bought from the crown - \$3 for the deed. Cost of the building was \$450. Four hundred and ninety-five dollars had been borrowed from George Maulson. John Olafson was the builder.

Classes began in June with John Thorne as teacher, followed in July by G.M. Robertson. The first inspector was Mr. Best. Number of students school age - 50; number of students other ages - 3. Trustees were S. Christopherson, H.G. Johnson, H. Sigurdson.

The floor had to be replaced in 1923, after a fire burned a hole in the old one. In the mid-1920's four windows were added to the two on the west side, and the two on the east side were replaced by two piano windows. In 1929 a larger basement was dug and cemented; the outside platform was cemented at this time. The work was done by Indi Sigurdson and Jack Harmer. An indoor stairway to the basement was also an improvement over the outdoor entry. No longer would small boys, who came in the early morning dark to light the fire, have to be afraid of ghosts

jumping out at them from those dark trap doors! In 1945, a new stable was built, John Breidal being in charge of the job.

During WW II a Junior Red Cross Club was organized. Hola and Frey Schools worked together to hold an auction sale and dance at the Argyle Hall (Grund) to raise money for their clubs. For two or three years Hola and Frey also combined their Christmas concerts at Argyle Hall.

For a couple of weeks each November white-clad men could be seen tramping the nearby woods and hills, deer hunting. Students, then, would not be allowed outside the school yard, and were encouraged to remain indoors at recess time. Those same hills provided winter fun - skiing and tobogganing. The spring would bring nature hikes - especially exciting when melting winter snow created tiny waterfalls as miniature rivers went rushing to the lake a half mile to the north. June 30, 1953, the school was closed. Only eight students were left - nine were needed to get a grant. W. Lockhart was the inspector. When consolidation took place in 1960, the building and land were sold by auction to Joe Christopherson in August, 1960.

Teachers during these years were:

John Thorn , G.M. Robertson, Lena Johnson , Gertie Harrower, Veiga Christopherson, Christine Anderson, Helga Bardal, Harold Sigmar, Rosa Christopherson, Lilly Snidal, J. Christopherson, Miss S. Brandson, Lilly Hallgrimson, Lena Josephson , Ethel Miller, Johannes Erickson, George Simpson , Alia Johnson, Otto Schultz, Ivan Schultz , B. Peterson, Indlaug Palson, Miss N. Skaftfeld, Julius Anderson, Mrs. Anna Todd, Miss B. Erlendson, Margret Castell , K. Goodchild, Ella Faye Warrenner, Lilly Christopherson, Miss C. Woodworth, Leola Heidman, Nellie Styan, Thora Oliver, Grace Freedy, Leonard Grundy, Leola Johnson, Belle Sole

Monthly wages varied from \$32.50 in 1897; \$125 in 1921; \$90 in 1923; \$45 in 1935; then gradually up to \$175 in 1953. The 1897 Government grant of \$64.34 was not received until 1898. The 1898 grant was \$81.25.

Today you can take a nostalgic drive back to Hola where it still stands in its original setting surrounded by its school yard. Although it now houses grain, the memories are not diminished.



*Back Row: Joe Breidal, Skuli Johnson, Murray Breidal, David Swainson. Second Row: Donna Christopherson, Erla Helgason, Lily Breidal. Third Row: Ros{llee Gudnason, A n n a Breidal, Lorelie Gudnason. Front Row: Johnny Oliver, Christine Helgason, Bob Christopherson. Taken in 1948.*